

CREATE CA

CORE REFORMS ENGAGING ARTS TO EDUCATE

A STATEWIDE COLLABORATIVE FOR CREATIVE EDUCATION

Inspired by the work of the National Endowment for the Arts and their Educational Leaders Institute (ELI), the California Department of Education and the California Arts Council have developed a formal collaboration to advance their shared goals relative to the *California Challenge*...a statement created during their attendance at ELI 2011. The *Challenge* they drafted reads...

“Ensure each student reaches his or her full potential by broadening California’s educational vision, policy, and practices to promote innovation, economic development, and creativity.”

The California delegation’s leadership team returned from this rich and highly focused meeting and set in motion a series of forums and ongoing conversations to advance an arts and creative education agenda for California...essential to meeting the *Challenge*.

This collaborative work is now being pursued under the umbrella of **CREATE CA** and represents a broad-based, statewide coalition of agencies, educators, business leaders and organizational partners building an education reform movement that views arts and creative education as a central part of the solution to the crisis in California schools. Along with the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Arts Council (CAC), the coalition is jointly led by the California Alliance for Arts Education (CAAE), the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), and the greater arts education community. The **CREATE CA** coalition believes the State is within a key “window of opportunity.” The change in leadership in the Governor’s office, the CDE and the CAC provides an opportunity to broaden California’s educational vision, policy and practice, and work to reverse the negative impact of narrow, test-driven educational policies.

CREATE CA INITIATIVE: WORK-TO-DATE

Forums in October 2011 and again in March 2012 were held in Southern California to introduce these issues to a wider constituency. During the March 2012 convening, a newly appointed, joint-CDE and CAC sponsored **Arts and Creative Education Taskforce** was introduced and together with the stakeholders present, began the creation of a new policy document, the **Blueprint for Creative Schools** (Blueprint).

The **Blueprint** is the first collaborative project of the coalition and will be published early in 2013. It will help to guide the subsequent work of **CREATE CA** and its partners.

GOALS FOR CREATE CA AND THE BLUEPRINT

The **Taskforce** is working in nine policy groups to draft the **Blueprint**. The policy groups include Educator Quality and Professional Preparation; Policy and Politics; Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment; Equity and Access; Role of Business and Industry in Building the Creative Workforce; Research and Evidence Building; School Finance and Sustainability; Strengthening Collaborative Relationships; and Teacher and School Development.



The **CREATE CA** and **Blueprint for Creative Schools** effort is expected to further important policy and planning work, some already underway or in development, including:

- Expansion of high school graduation requirements in arts subjects
- Support for broad-based inclusion of arts and creative education in pre-service teacher preparation programs
- Ensuring the arts and creative education are properly included in the anticipated updates and revisions to California's school assessment system
- Embedding of the arts with the Common Core State Standards (new design work underway with support from Hewlett Foundation)
- Strengthening the arts connections to Career Technical Education and Linked Learning/Multiple Pathways
- Evaluation of possible ballot measures to raise education funding, including funds for arts education
- Support for teacher and administrator continuing education program in arts education
- Establishment of Dance and Theater teaching credentials (in addition to the current Visual Art and Music credentials)
- Expanded engagement of parents and business leaders in advocacy for arts education and creative schools

CREATE CA LEADERSHIP TEAM

California Arts Council (CAC) (www.arts.ca.gov)

- Malissa Feruzzi Shriver, Council Chair
- Terry Lenihan, Council Member and Director of Art Education, Loyola Marymount University
- Craig Watson, Director

California Department of Education (CDE) (www.cde.ca.gov)

- Craig Cheslog, Principal Advisor to Superintendent for Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson
- Jack Mitchell, Secondary Arts Consultant – Visual and Performing Arts and Career Technical Education
- Carrie Roberts, Administrator, Literacy, History, and Arts Leadership Office

California Alliance for Arts Education (CAAE) (www.artsed411.org)

- Mark Slavkin, Board Chair; Vice President, Education, Music Center LA County
- Joe Landon, Executive Director

California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) (www.ccsesa.org and www.ccsesaarts.org)

- Sarah Anderberg, Director, CCSESA Statewide Arts Initiative

At-Large Members

- Robert Bullwinkel, Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator, Fresno County Office of Education
- Anne Bown-Crawford, Director, Arcata Arts Institute at Arcata High School
- Kris McClung, Arts Education Consultant; Founder, Coronado School of the Arts
- Amy Shimshon-Santo, Ph.D., Artist / Educator / Researcher, UC Irvine and Art Center College of Design

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